## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

SKELTON, Steven Andrew, et al.

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Examiner:

KIRSCH, Andrew Thomas

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Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT & LETTER TO THE OFFICE

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicant wishes to call the attention of the Office to the information identified herein. Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the materials submitted herewith in the examination of this application. Applicant also requests that the information submitted here be made of record, and where appropriate be included on the 'references cited' portion of any patent issuing from this application.

The citation of this information does not, and is not intended to, constitute a waiver or admission of priority or that any cited item is available as a reference, alone or when combined, or is "prior art" under 35 U.S.C. §102 or 103, or a waiver of any right under applicable statutes, codes, rules, or otherwise.

Statement regarding related co-pending patent: The Examiner's attention is drawn to the following related co-existing patent:

1. European Pat. No. EP 1 694 576 B1 filed issued February 27, 2008. Because this co-owned patent is allowed and not prior art, no PTO-1449 is submitted.

The Examiner is reminded that the above patent, through the passage of time, one or more of the above may issue or may be further pursued in divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications and that each co-pending application linked to this statement is also progressively asserted, and may be further pursued readily via the electronic record.

Upon review of the above statements and enclosed information, it is believed that the Examiner will concur with Applicant's belief that the subject matter presently claimed is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by these references.

No fees are deemed necessary for the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement, as it is being filed before a first Office Action in this application. However, if any fees are necessary in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, authorization is provided to access Deposit Account 10-0100 for this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: March 2, 2010

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